

Mr. Les Whitten
114 Eastmoor Dr.
Silver Spring, Md. 20901

12/11/11

Dear Les,

Until I recognized the figure on your card as an old cock and took it to represent a fighting cock I was virtually desolated by your note: "Harold - You won't have old (sic) Les Whitten to kick around in 1978."

First I wondered what the younger generation is coming to.

Next I pondered a deep conspiracy to drive me out of business or into idle frustrations.

What, reduce me to nothing but the FBI to kick around? Resurrected Cointelpro!

But then ~~calm~~ reason returned and I realized all is not lost.

There still remains the CIA, and I've already filed against it - charging it with money fraud. To begin with.

I am further consoled by the Department of Justice, which has insisted on fashioning a wooden horse around me - and is to pay me for the time I spend in it.

The animal farm includes other wild elephants, some at Fort Meade.

Then there is a beard to be shorn, perhaps in 1978.

So all is not lost. EnOUGH remain in the kitchen (besides Jack) and hopefully I'll find ways of keeping adequate heat there.

Yours is far and away the best crack to date this season. We enjoyed it.

There is much for which you have my thanks and appreciation. I send them to your home on the chance that Phyllis of the late suppers and often absent husband may know of the respect of an old cock for a younger one who has fought so many good fights - and will again.

Because I try to do so much I sit down, write in haste, rarely take time to read and correct, and then go on to something else. Sometimes I'm not clear. Others tell me sometimes not even comprehensible. So I want there to be no doubt: I have and have had no personal complaint against you. You have always been honest and honorable with me. Going back to Drew you are the exception. I have been trying to talk to Jack through you. I know the last item about which I recanted strongly is not what you wrote because you read me what you wrote. It was fair and accurate. It was not propaganda.

In a line of work that does not foster it and in a branch of that work that is antagonistic to it you have remained a first-rate human being as well as a more than merely competent professional. How I wish that others, especially in the government, would realize the two are not incompatible!

I hope your year off is as productive as you would like it to be and as successful as I would like it to be.

Before you get out of the kitchen for this year (I hope for no more) and if it does not require the breaching of a source there is something I would like you to check if you can. The recently disclosed FBI records indicate a leak of a hoax story to Drew. It says Drew but maybe the column. I do not have those records yet. I'll be filing suit for them without cost on Monday. It was a fabricated story about Oswald being paid \$6,500 in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico to kill JFK. If you have a way of learning and are not compromised by telling my interest is in the source. Not so much the name as the agency. I think CIA. Likely Angleton or one of his colleagues higher or lower in rank. Those lower include Raymond Rocca, (Arthur?) Dooley and others although it could have been done by the information gang, this having been prime disinformation. Maybe Karamessines. Helms was in on that, too. Whether or not you can do this, maybe some time in the future you'll be interested in the rest of the story. Best wishes for a good, happy and prosperous year,